

In the claims:

Claims 1-19 cancelled.

20. (Previously presented) A method of assembling a sealing ring in an outer annular groove of a machine part formed as a valve plate with the use of an assembly tool, comprising the steps of premounting the sealing ring by hand on the machine part so that the sealing ring rests on an outside of the annular groove; placing a pneumatic piston-cylinder unit and firmly retaining the piston-cylinder unit on an axial side of the machine part or on the sealing ring; placing a flange part on another axial side of the machine part or on the sealing ring and solidly connecting the flange part to the piston-cylinder unit by a clamp; subjecting the piston-cylinder unit to compressed air, so that the workpiece with its axially protruding annular assembly portion press-fits the sealing ring uniformly into the annular groove; and removing the assembly tool from the machine part.

21. (Previously presented) A method as defined in claim 20, wherein said removing includes removing the assembly tool from the machine part after a pressure relief of the piston-cylinder unit and after a release of the clamp.